

Grand Avenue and Bell Road Study

PUBLIC HEARING GUIDE



Grand Avenue and Bell Road Study

Thank you for attending today's public hearing for the Grand Avenue and Bell Road Study. The public hearing is part of the process to involve citizens in transportation decisions; it gives you the opportunity to participate and to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for this Study. See below for more information on the purpose of this public hearing.

AGENDA

3:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Sign in, review the displays, and talk with study team members. This part will not be included in the public hearing record.➤ Private verbal and written testimony begins. Private verbal testimony continues until the end of the public hearing.
4 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The formal presentation begins.
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Public verbal testimony begins at the completion of the presentation. Private verbal testimony continues.➤ Review displays and talk with study team members. This part will not be included in the public hearing record.
5:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The formal presentation, which is the same as the one at 4 p.m., begins.
6 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Public verbal testimony continues at the completion of ADOT's presentation. You may also continue to provide private verbal testimony.➤ Review the displays, and talk with study team members. This part will not be included in the public hearing record.
7 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Public hearing ends. Comments accepted through May 15, 2014.

DRAFT EA PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS

The Draft EA is available for a 30-day public comment period, starting April 15, 2014, and ending on May 15, 2014. During this comment period, the document is available online (azdot.gov/BellandGrand) and at the public locations listed below.

▶ Surprise City Hall

16000 N. Civic Center Plaza, Surprise, AZ 85374

▶ PORA Office

13815 Camino del Sol, Sun City West, AZ 85375

▶ ADOT Environmental Planning Group

(call 602.712.7767 for review by appointment)

1611 W. Jackson St., Phoenix, AZ 85007

PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC HEARING

This hearing is being held on April 30, 2014, by ADOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to obtain comments on the Draft EA for the proposed construction of a grade separation at Grand Avenue and Bell Road.

The main purpose of this public hearing is to obtain input on location, design and environmental aspects of the proposed project. Public input, along with input from agencies and local governments, will be considered in the decisions made by ADOT and FHWA for the Grand Avenue and Bell Road Study. Court reporters are available to record all testimony, which will be entered into the public hearing record along with other public hearing information and materials. Written testimony may be submitted after the public hearing. Comments must be postmarked by May 15, 2014, and should be sent to the address listed below.

PROVIDING TESTIMONY / COMMENTS

There are several options for providing testimony. Your testimony will be considered by ADOT and FHWA as final decisions are made regarding the Grand Avenue and Bell Road Study. Questions related to the project can be directed to project staff during informal discussions but will not be recorded by the court reporter or included in the public hearing record.

There are three ways to comment on the record at this public hearing.

1 Private verbal testimony:

A court reporter is here to take your comments from 3:30 to 7 p.m. There is no time limit on these comments.

2 Public verbal testimony:

Following the presentations by ADOT, public testimony may be given until those wishing to testify publicly are finished or the public hearing ends at 7 p.m., whichever comes first. Fill out the speaker registration card, and hand it in at the speaker registration table. Your name will be called in the order the cards are received. Testimony is limited to three minutes. You can provide verbal testimony a second time after all others have testified.

3 Written comments:

Written comments may be provided in addition to, or in place of, verbal testimony. Complete the comment form or use your own stationery. Once you have completed your written comments, you have two options:

- ▶ Submit it tonight by placing it in the mailbox at the registration table.
- ▶ Mail or email your comments to the Grand Avenue and Bell Road Project Team at the address below. Please include your name and address with your written comments. Mailed or emailed comments must be postmarked or received no later than May 15, 2014, to be included in the official public hearing record.

ADOT
Grand Avenue and Bell Road Project Team
1655 W. Jackson St., MD 126F, Phoenix, AZ 85007
projects@azdot.gov

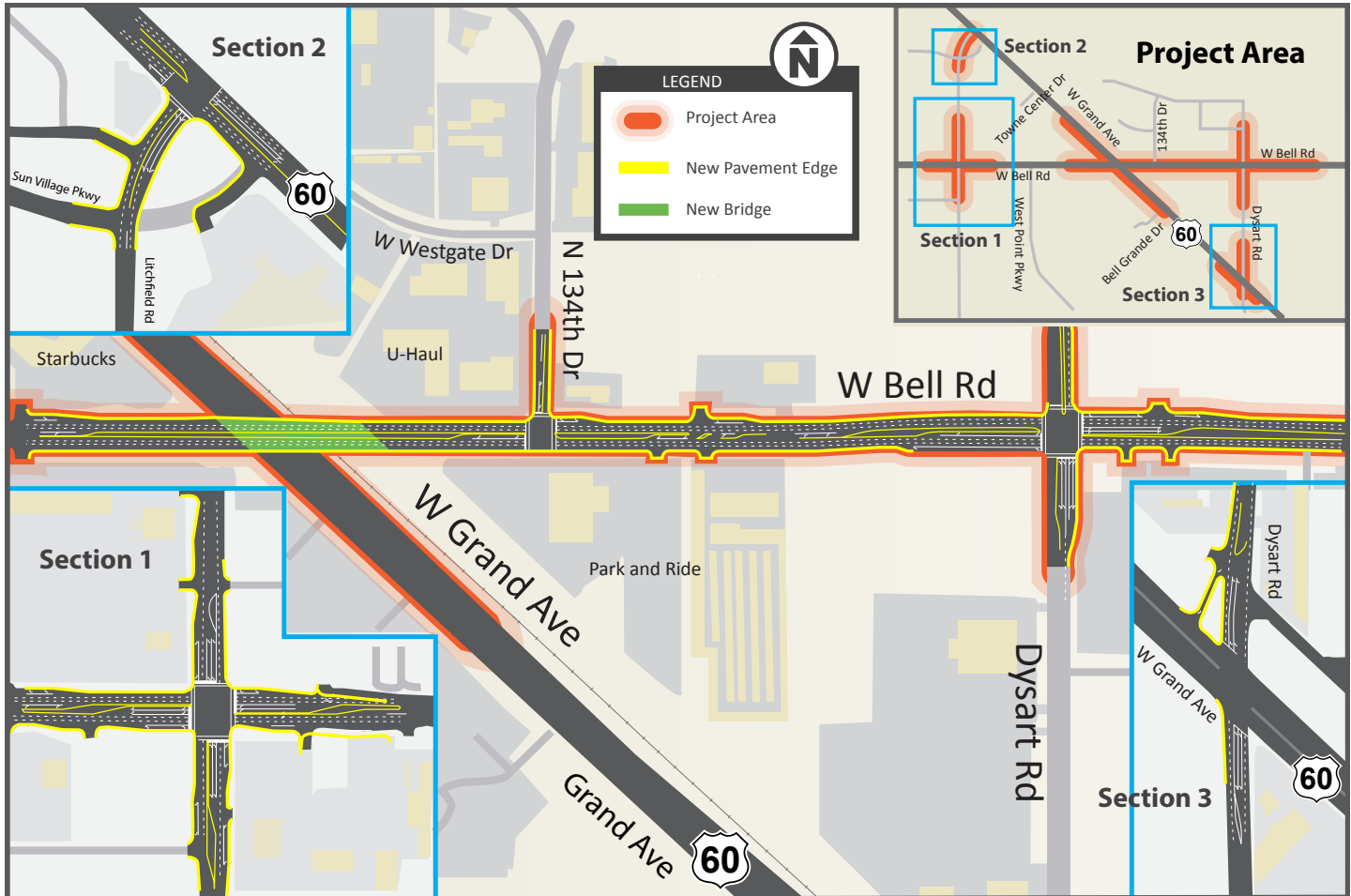
Grand Avenue and Bell Road Study

Alternative A ▸ Median urban design (Recommended Alternative)



Alternative A would elevate Bell Road over US 60 and the BNSF Railway, and would provide ramp connections between Grand Avenue and Bell Road at the existing intersection location. All of the existing turning traffic movements at the US60/Bell Road intersection would continue to be accommodated with this alternative.

Alternative B ▸ Grade separation only



Alternative B would elevate Bell Road over Grand Avenue and the BNSF Railway, but would eliminate the Grand Avenue/Bell Road intersection. All of the turning traffic movement at the Grand Avenue/Bell Road intersection would be re-routed to Litchfield Road and Dysart Road. Subsequently, intersection improvements would be provided at the Grand Avenue/Litchfield Road, Grand Avenue/Dysart Road, Bell Road/Litchfield Road and Bell Road/Dysart Road intersections.

NO BUILD Alternative ▸ Intersection will not change

Frequently Asked Questions

➤ Where can I obtain a copy of or view the Draft EA?

The Draft EA will be available through a variety of methods, including for review at the public hearing, by download from azdot.gov/BellandGrand and for review at these locations:

▶ Surprise City Hall

16000 N. Civic Center Plaza, Surprise, AZ 85374

▶ PORA Office

13815 Camino del Sol, Sun City West, AZ 85375

▶ ADOT Environmental Planning Group

(call 602.712.7767 for review by appointment)
1611 W. Jackson St., Phoenix, AZ 85007

➤ Will there be a public vote on the proposed grade separation?

No public vote will be held as part of the Draft EA review process. The public is encouraged to participate and submit comments on the Draft EA during the 30-day comment period.

➤ What happens after the Draft EA comment period ends?

After May 15, 2014 (the end of the Draft EA comment period), the study team will review and address all comments received, regardless of how they are submitted, in the Final EA document.

➤ When would construction take place?

If the outcome of the study is the build alternative, then the timing of construction would depend on the completion of final design, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation and funding.

➤ Who makes the final decision?

The final decision on the project and alignment is a cooperative effort involving ADOT, FHWA and Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). The corridor is part of a comprehensive regional plan developed by MAG. ADOT serves as the agency responsible for implementation of the plan, with FHWA providing the federal oversight required to utilize federal funds. FHWA is the lead federal agency responsible for implementing the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the governing federal law, and is responsible for the ultimate decision regarding the proposed action.

➤ How is public input used?

Public comments are a vital component in the decision-making process. Public comment has been solicited from project inception and through key milestones in the EA process. The interests and needs of the public, along with all other social, economic and environmental issues and impacts, must be fully analyzed and included in the Draft and Final EAs. Comments made during development of the Draft EA have been used to adjust plans, explore new questions or make changes - all within the scope of NEPA. Public comments received on the Draft EA will be reviewed and addressed in the Final EA document.

More information about the entire public involvement process up to publication of the Draft EA is available in chapter 5, "Public Involvement and Project Coordination", of the Draft EA.

Frequently Asked Questions

➤ **Is it likely that this project would require new right of way?**

It is possible that implementation of a grade separation at US 60 and Bell Road would include the need to acquire new right of way. One purpose of the EA process is to determine the extent of new right of way that would be needed for each reasonable alternative. Individuals with questions regarding the property acquisition or relocation process are encouraged to speak with an ADOT Right of Way representative at the public hearing, or contact the ADOT Right-of-Way Group by visiting them online at azdot.gov/business/RightofWay_Properties/contact-us or by calling **602.712.7316**.

➤ **What factors were considered in designating a Recommended Alternative?**

Upon confirming the purpose and need for the proposed action, a multidisciplinary process was undertaken to identify a range of reasonable alternatives to be studied in detail in the Draft EA. The process involved identifying, comparatively screening and eliminating alternatives based on several factors:

- ▶ **A comparison of modal choices**
- ▶ **Engineering, environmental, social and cost considerations**
- ▶ **The historical context of the proposed action**
- ▶ **Projected conditions with and without the alternatives being considered**
- ▶ **Input from the public and agencies**

The identification of the Median Urban Design as the Recommended Alternative was based on a balanced consideration of overall transportation needs; consistency with regional and long-range planning goals; environmental, economic and societal impacts; traffic operational differences; estimated costs; regional support and public input.

➤ **How does Maricopa County's half-cent transportation sales tax (Proposition 400) affect the future of the proposed grade separation at Grand Avenue and Bell Road?**

Proposition 400 provides the primary source of funding for construction of the proposed grade separation at Grand Avenue and Bell Road. Consistent with federal planning guidelines, funding for transportation projects is based on revenue sources that are considered to be reasonably available for the planning period. For planning purposes, it is assumed that funding sources with a long history of providing funding in the past will continue to do so into the future.

➤ **Will access to businesses be maintained during construction?**

Business access will be maintained throughout construction. It is anticipated that two lanes in each direction will be open to traffic throughout the duration of the project's construction.

➤ **How do I provide input outside of the public hearing?**

Comments will be accepted through May 15, 2014 by email: projects@azdot.gov, phone: 855.712.8530, writing: ADOT, Grand Avenue and Bell Road Project Team, 1655 W. Jackson St., MD 126F, Phoenix, AZ 85007.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

ADOT Community Relations
1655 W. Jackson St.
Mail Drop 126F
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Email: projects@azdot.gov
Phone: 855.712.8530

ADOT Project No.: H848501L Federal Project No.: NH-060-B(212)T

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